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NATIONALITY, BIRTHPLACE, AND RACIAL ORIGIN OF CANADIANS AS
RECORDED IN THE CENSUS

The Population schedule of the Census contains altogether 35 questions, of which 10 bear on the related subjects of nationality, birthplace, language and racial origin. A description of policy and method is as follows:

(1) **Nationality.**- Each and every person of Canadian citizenship or nationality, whether such by birth or naturalization, is recorded as a "Canadian". In the case of naturalized citizens, the year of naturalization is recorded. In the case of everyone born outside of Canada, the year of immigration to Canada is also recorded.

The participation of Canada in the Peace Treaty and in the League of Nations made it necessary for an official definition of Canadian nationals and Canadian nationality to be made for the first time in Canada, since among different measures adopted in connection with the operation of the League were provisions defining certain rights and privileges to be enjoyed by the nationals of members of the League. A Canadian national was accordingly defined by 11-12 Geo.V, chap.4, as

- (a) any British subject who is a Canadian citizen within the meaning of the Immigration Act, chapter 27 of the Statutes of 1910, as heretofore amended;
- (b) the wife of any such person;
- (c) any person born out of Canada, whose father was a Canadian national at the time of that person's birth, or with regard to persons born before the passing of this Act, any person whose father at the time of such birth possessed all the qualifications of a Canadian national as defined in this Act,

According to the Immigration Act, 1910, a "Canadian citizen" is

- (i) a person born in Canada who has not become an alien;
- (ii) a British subject who has Canadian domicile;
- (iii) a person naturalized under the laws of Canada who has not subsequently become an alien or lost Canadian domicile.

The Census fully covers the point of view above set out.

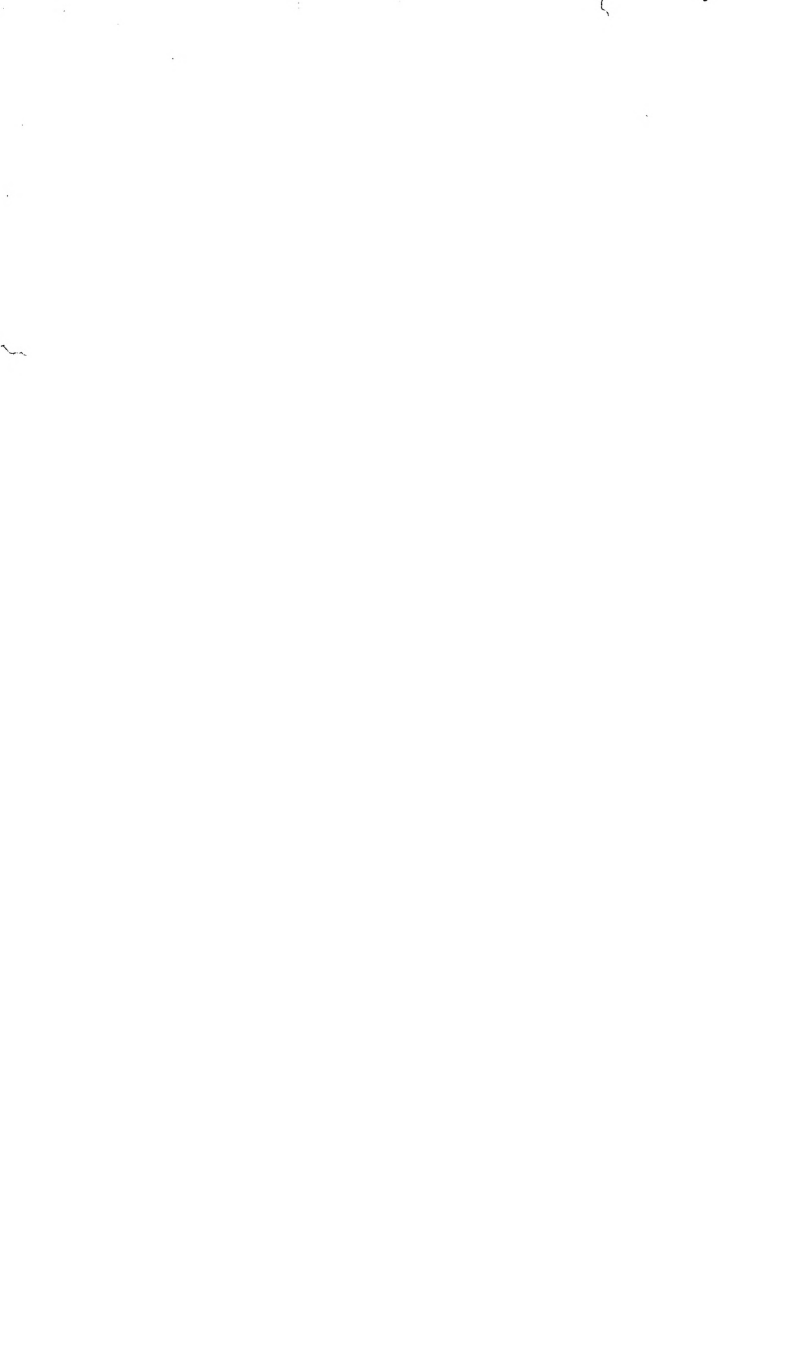
(2) **Birthplace.**- The country of birth of each person is recorded, and in the case of Canadian-born, the province of birth. This (a) differentiates the Canadian-born and British-born from the foreign-born, and (b) in the case of the Canadian-born, enables the movement to be traced from time to time of our native Canadian stock within the limits of Canada.

The birthplaces of the father and mother of each person are also recorded. This is for the purpose of distinguishing Canadian families of three or more generations residence in the country, and thus instituting a further and special standard of "Canadianism".

N.B. It will be noted from the above headings that the Census describes everyone of Canadian nationality as "Canadian"; everyone born in Canada as of "Canadian" birth; and everyone whose family has been of three generations residence or more in Canada as "Canadian" in a special and "racial" sense.

(3) The language spoken is recorded (a) whether English, French (the two official languages of the country), or (b) other language used in the family. Language is not only an important factor in itself, but is a valuable cross-check in various features of population analysis. In the United States the language of parents is obtained as a further index of racial extraction.

(4) The racial origin of each person is recorded, the object of this question being to ascertain from what basic stocks the present Canadian population, more particularly the recently immigrated population, is derived. The answer "Canadian" under this heading is not accepted, as the purpose of the question is to obtain in so



far as possible a definition of "Canadian" in terms of racial derivation. Of this procedure of the Census, it is recognized that there are Canadians whose family is of several generations residence in the country who may not know their ultimate racial origin, or who may be of very mixed racial origin. As against this it must be considered: (a) That Canadians whose family is of three or more generations residence are enumerated and differentiated through the question on the birthplace of parents above described; (b) That there are special features in connection with racial assimilation that require appraisal and study; for example, over 800 Chinese and Japanese children were born in Canada last year, whom it would not be expedient to enumerate solely on the basis of birthplace and nationality. Again, the fact that the constitution of Canada is based on the presence of two dominant races points to the desirability of a measurement of these elements; only recently it has been widely pointed out that the original French colony numbering 75,000 at the date of the Conquest had expanded to over three millions to-day; measurements of this kind would be impossible if the answer "Canadian" instead of "French" were accepted under the heading of racial origin - yet undoubtedly the descendants of the original French colonists are "Canadians", (c) Finally, racial origin is an important subject for study in a "new" country like Canada from the standpoint of the student of ethnology, criminology, and the social and "biometric" sciences in general.

To accept the answer "Canadian" to the question on racial origin would confuse the data and defeat the purpose for which it is asked.

It must be appreciated that the whole question of population analysis from this standpoint is a complex one, involving several concepts (i.e. of birthplace, nationality, race, etc.), which, though closely related, represent distinct points of view. Especially important is the fact that the questions in this connection are not compiled separately, but in combination and cross-relation with each other, and the questions are drafted with that process in view. For example, the racial origin of the newly arrived immigrant and of the three generation Canadian are differentiated in compilation.

The Census, to repeat, deals comprehensively with Canadian nationality in its various aspects, no question being omitted or method pursued that tends to obscure information. The last Census, for example, shows that of a total population of 8,788,483 in 1921, the number of Canadian nationality was 8,412,383 (514,182 being Canadian by naturalization); the number of Canadians by birth was 6,832,747; whilst the number of Canadians whose family residence in the country is of three or more generations and who may therefore be considered as constituting a Canadian race was 4,857,523. Of the racial derivations of Canadians the more important were English 2,545,496, French 2,452,751, Scotch 1,173,637, and Irish 1,107,817. These figures, of course, are analyzed and amplified in the Census reports from literally hundreds of points of view, the object being to lay bare all the essential and crucial facts concerning the population, and especially those relating to "Canadianization".

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